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CSU Food Systems Team Spotlight



Dr. Lauren Chenarides

Assistant Professor, Department of Agricultural and Resource Economics

Lauren Chenarides is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Agricultural and Resource Economics at Colorado State University. Her research background is in food economics, studying the nexus between food choice, retailer competition, and public policy. Specifically, her research interests focus on understanding barriers to accessing affordable, healthy foods and the consequences of poor food access on consumer spending, diet, and health; analyzing trends and developments in food retailer competition, market concentration, and marketing strategies; and, examining the impact of entry by non-traditional food retailers on local competition. She also conducts research in food supply chains, sustainable food systems, and the impact of COVID-19 on food and agricultural markets. Dr. Chenarides holds an undergraduate degree from the College of the Holy Cross, where she majored in Mathematics, and a Ph.D. in Agricultural, Environmental, and Regional Economics from Pennsylvania State University, where she graduated in 2017. Prior to joining CSU, she was an Assistant Professor at Arizona State University.



Audrey Snyder Welsh

Evaluation Coordinator, CSU Department of Agricultural and Resource Economics

Audrey is the new Evaluation Coordinator at CSU DARE for the Northwest and Rocky Mountain USDA Regional Food Business Center. Her primary responsibility will be to support and coordinate the collection of reporting data to capture the performance of Center's outreach and technical assistance. Audrey is deeply invested in supporting small and mid-tier producers and ranchers and hopes to continue this support through her work with the Center. Audrey earned her MBA in Global, Social, and Sustainable Enterprises from Colorado State University's College of Business and has launched two local food systems businesses. She seeks to continue to advocate for the unique needs of small businesses through bridging funding opportunities and technical assistance programs.



Mark Your Calendar

National Western Stock Show Events on CSU Spur Campus



The **National Western Stock Show** is **January 6-21**, and CSU Spur has a full calendar of festivities! During Stock Show, Spur will be open 10 a.m.-5 p.m. every day (including weekends). There will be many hands-on programs and things to see during the 16 days of Stock Show, including activities in the kitchen and at the stream table, equine sports medicine demonstrations, and more.

Plan your visit, and don't miss these special events:

- Spur is celebrating its anniversary! **Visit from 1-5 p.m. on Friday, Jan. 5**, to commemorate the milestone first year of the full CSU Spur campus in operation! This event is free and open to the public and features opportunities to explore CSU Spur programs and partners.
- Join the after-party! Spur is co-hosting the **Denver Metro Chamber's Boots 'n Business after-party from 1-3 p.m. on Jan. 5** in the Vida arena. This ticketed event will be a great time with music, refreshments, and networking. **Register and purchase tickets.**
- Always a crowd favorite: **CSU Day at the Stock Show!** Visit Spur from **10 a.m.-5 p.m. on Saturday, Jan. 13**, for a family-friendly, full CSU campus takeover. Meet CAM the Ram, get your picture with campus mascots, cheer on the pep band, snag a special Spur winter beanie, and more.



First Annual Offal Party

The Offal Party is an opportunity to:

- **Feast** on delicious dishes prepared by the award-winning team at **Xatrucho Concepts**
- **Learn** the cultural relevance and nutritional value of organ meats and the problems Colorado ranchers and processors face in getting these meats to market
- **Connect** with fellow foodies, restaurateurs, food entrepreneurs, processors, pet food experts, butchers, inventors, investors, and ranchers
- **Imagine** new businesses and technologies that unlock the value of this undervalued food in our regenerative ag ecosystem; consider competing in the Offal Business Plan Competition in 2025
- **Pair** with the celebrated **Mexican Rodeo Extravaganza at the National Western Stock Show** the same afternoon

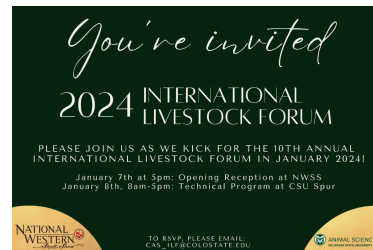
The First Annual Offal Party will be held:

- **Sunday, January 7, 2024 from 11:00-1:30 p.m**
- At CSU Spur on 4777 National Western Dr. Denver, CO 80216

Register here: <http://bit.ly/TheOffalParty>

10th Annual International Livestock Forum

Since its inception, this program has highlighted the role of Colorado agriculture in the global livestock and meat industries. This year, the event will bring together leaders and members of the meat industry to discuss topics that are of interest to the local and global livestock and meat industries.



Travel fellowships are available to support the attendance of 4-H and FFA students from across Colorado. This effort will serve to strengthen our University's connection to young people who are interested in Colorado livestock and meat production.

When: **January 7-8, 2024**. Event starts at 5pm at the NWSS followed by a technical program at CSU Spur from 8am to 5pm.

RSVP at CAS_ILF@colostate.edu



Applications Open for the 2024 "Cultivating Farmers and Ranchers that Thrive" Course

Cultivating Farmers and Ranchers that Thrive (CFRT) provides beginning farmers and ranchers the opportunity to learn and develop their skills to become food and product providers with education, business training, mentorship, and land access. CFRT focuses on providing support that has a positive Social, Economic, and Environmental impact for farmers and ranchers.

As a result of this program, you will be able to:

- See the big picture of your farm
- Learn holistic decision-making and problem-solving skills
- Bring all decision-makers to the table
- Prioritize the steps to start your farm/ranch
- Restore health & productivity to land
- Implement skills and tools towards becoming financially sound and economically viable
- Develop a full business/farm plan for your operation
- Gain contacts and build a network of support
- Learn communication and leadership skills
- Gain an understanding of water management in a high desert climate

Applications are due **January 15th**. To apply, click [here](#).

For more information, contact cally@valleyfoodpartnership.org.

2024 Colorado Farm Show

One of the largest — and oldest — farm shows in the nation takes place in Weld County, in Greeley at Island Grove. This annual three-day event features almost 350 ag-related exhibits and draws more than 30,000 visitors from throughout the region interested in learning more about ag products, services, and machinery. Topics covered in the farm show will include:



- **January 23rd** Topics: Beef, Colorado Produce, Water, and Agronomy
- **January 24th** Topics: Dairy, Weeds, Colorado Weather, Partners in Ag, and Small Animal
- **January 25th** Topics: Ag Outlook, Ag Education, and Equine

Click [here](#) to learn more and see the full schedule of speakers including several members of our CSU team.



Food Safety Training for Colorado Cottage Foods Producers

Learn how to safely produce food from home as a cottage food business. This online course covers a variety of topics, including: basic food safety, foods that are permissible under the updated Colorado Cottage Foods Act, ingredient labeling, special considerations for food preparation at high altitudes, and safe food sampling best practices. Registration is \$50; times are all in Mountain Standard or Daylight.

Courses will be offered online on the following dates. **Click each date below** to register and learn more about the program. For additional dates, check [here](#).

CSU Extension Cottage Food Safety Training Online:

- **January 26**, 9:00 am - 12:30 pm, online
- **February 23**, 9:00 am - 12:30 pm, online
- **March 12**, 5:00 pm - 8:30 pm, online

2024 Western Colorado Soil Health Food and Farm Forum

The Western Colorado Soil Health Food and Farm Forum is for anyone with an interest in the future of agriculture. Whether you're looking to improve on or innovate existing practices, the Forum has resources and networking opportunities for you.



To see a list of speakers and the schedule events, learn more [here](#).

January 26-27th at the Montrose Pavilion

Register [here](#).



BUILDING FARMERS
COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY
EXTENSION

2024 Colorado Building Farmers and Ranchers Program

Starting **January 23, 2024 through March 12, 2024**, Colorado Building Farmers will be offering an online class that covers the principles of business management, developing a marketing plan, managing risk in your operation, obtaining financing, and more. Classes will be held on Tuesdays from 6:00-8:30 pm. This 8-week class culminates in you presenting your draft business plan to a group of your peers. The class is intended for new and intermediate level farmers and ranchers in Colorado (0 to 10 years of experience). Cost is \$225 per participant, and \$125 for each additional participant from the same farm business.

Learn more and register [here](#).

Grant and Grow Workshop



COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY
EXTENSION

The Grant and Grow Workshop offered by CSU Extension will inform participants about grants and funding opportunities that will help grow agricultural production and food businesses. Topics covered will include:

- Grant Seeking 101
- Natural Resources and Conservation Service (NRCS) Funding
- Western Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education (SARE) Farmer/Rancher Grants
- American Farmland Trust Microgrants
- Colorado Department of Agriculture Grants
- USDA Ag Marketing Service Grants
- Grant Writing Workshop

This event will take place on **February 2nd, 2024 from 8:30am-3:30pm** in Loveland, CO. **Registration is due by January 12th, 2024**. The event cost is \$30, which includes a light breakfast and lunch.

Click [here](#) for more information and to register.



Produce Safety Alliance Grower Training for Fruit and Vegetable Producers February 5 & 6

Colorado State University Extension, Fort Lewis College, and the Colorado Fruit and Vegetable Growers Association will be hosting an **online only** Produce Safety Alliance Grower Training Course in two parts, from 8am-1:00pm on both **February 5 and**

February 6, 2024. This course provides a foundation on the FSMA Produce Safety Rule requirements, Good Agricultural Practices (GAPs) and co-management information, and details on how to develop a farm food safety plan. Registration fee is \$40 which includes PSA materials and a certificate of completion as required under FSMA. **Registration closes on January 25, 2024.** Learn more and [register here](#).

Colorado Food System Advisory Council Informational Webinar



COLORADO
FOOD SYSTEMS
ADVISORY COUNCIL

This informative and interactive webinar is for anyone who wants to learn more about the Colorado Food System Advisory Council.

Participants will:

- learn about COFSAC, the working groups, and how to get involved, and
- develop connections with members of the Colorado Food Systems Advisory Council and other coalition and council members to more easily reach out for future questions or support.

February 14, 2024, 12:00PM - 1:00PM MT

Register here: <https://bit.ly/COFSACWebinar>



Save the Date for the 4th Annual Sun Soil Water Ag Summit 2024

The Sun Soil Water Ag Summit will take place on **February 23rd and 24th** at Pueblo Community College.

For more information, visit pueblofoodproject.org/sunsoilwaterag

Colorado Fruit and Vegetable Growers Annual Conference

Registration is now open for the 10th Annual CFVGA Conference, the Colorado produce event of the year where growers and supporting companies and institutions gather for education, inspiration and networking!



Visit the conference [website](#) for agenda, speaker bios, exhibitors' virtual booths and much more.

Tuesday February 27-28, 2024 at the Westin Westminster



**AGRICULTURE AND
BUSINESS MANAGEMENT**
COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY
EXTENSION

Ag Tax Update and Refresher

Join ag business management specialist, Jeff Tranel, on **February 28, 2024 from 6:00pm-7:30pm** for a class on agricultural taxes.

Topics covered will include:

- Farm/Ranch (Schedule F) income & expenses
- Cost recovery (depreciation)
- Reporting on Schedule C versus Schedule F
- Tax management strategies
- Update for 2024

This class is free but you must **register** to attend.

Crop Wide Relatives and Wild Utilized Plants Symposium

Please join for a symposium to assess progress toward conserving North American crop wild relatives and wild utilized plants. We invite the unique perspectives of botanic gardens, Indigenous groups, land managers, researchers, breeders, and seed and gene banks as we discuss future conservation priorities for this important group of plants.



When: September 17-19, 2024 at the Denver Botanic Gardens, Denver, Colorado

Interested in attending? Sign up to receive symposium notifications at <https://www.bgci.org/news-events/cwr2024/>



Funding Opportunities

USDA FNS Announces New School Workforce Cooperative Agreement

The USDA Food Nutrition Service (FNS) announced a funding opportunity that will support research projects to



better understand and generate information related to the school foodservice workforce.

The new cooperative agreement will focus on dimensions such as worker satisfaction, workforce experience, and training and development. Relevant research activities may include, but are not limited to providing information on career pathways for the school foodservice workforce, including training and skill-building opportunities, promotion potential, and tenure/retention within individual employers and the industry as a whole; identifying skills used on the job by role, including analysis of transferability of skills to other industries; identifying level of worker satisfaction and describe workplace conditions (perception and objective measures); and examining how any of the above vary across roles, demographics, school/school food authority (SFA) characteristics, and geography.

Applications are due **February 9, 2024**. Click [here](#) for more information.

Rural Development Food Supply Chain Guaranteed Loans Available



As part of the American Rescue Plan, the USDA **Rural Development Food Supply Chain Guaranteed Loan Program** is offering loans of up to \$40 million for qualified lenders to finance food systems projects.

These loans will be available to projects that are starting or expanding activities in the middle of the food supply chain. For example, the program will support new investments in infrastructure for food aggregation, processing, manufacturing, storage, transportation, wholesaling, and distribution. Applications will be accepted until funds are exhausted.

Colorado contact information for Rural Development and its regional offices can be found at:

<https://www.rd.usda.gov/contact-page/colorado-contacts>.



News, Resources & Reading



The 14th Global Forum for Rural Advisory Services Annual Meeting was recently held in Denver

Almost 200 leaders in agriculture and researchers in extension and rural advisory services attended the 14th Global Forum for Rural Advisory Services (GFRAS) Annual Meeting. Conference participants heralded

from more than 40 countries across North America, South America, Asia, Africa, and Europe to attend the three-day event, and it was the first GFRAS meeting held in the United States.

For more information, or to watch videos from the conference, click [here](#).



From Our Communities



Submit Applications for CSU Extension's Summer Internship Program

CSU's Office of the Provost is now accepting applications for the Extension Summer Internship Program.

Submissions are open to all faculty and staff across all CSU colleges and in the field. Internship proposals will be accepted through **December 15**.

For information about how to submit a proposal and to learn more about internships and outcomes from previous years, visit intern.colostate.edu. For general questions about the program, connect with our Extension Internship Program Coordinator Kyla Davis at kylam.davis@colostate.edu.

Connect with the Northwest and Rocky Mountain USDA Regional Food Business Center

The Northwest and Rocky Mountain USDA Regional Food Business Center (RFBC) is one of 12 Regional Food Business Centers funded by USDA, with the goal of improving local and regional food systems and better serving underinvested farm and food businesses. The Northwest and Rocky Mountain RFBC serves Colorado, Wyoming, Montana, Idaho, Oregon and Washington. Recent updates include:

- our first [newsletter](#)
- [news and events](#) from across the region
- new [grant](#) programs

Learn more about the Center's educational and technical support programs for small- and mid-sized food and farm businesses, and sign up for updates here: <https://nwrockymountainregionalfoodbusiness.com/>.





ABOUT FOOD SYSTEMS

at Colorado State University

Food systems are the connections between natural resources, the agricultural and food industries, and the buyers, consumers, and communities to which they contribute. Research, extension and education identify and inform opportunities to bridge how production, supply chains, and eaters respond to changing markets, policy, and the environment. At CSU, we focus on these key areas to train, influence, and communicate ways to connect food-related roles and foster healthy communities, economies, and individuals.



Stay Connected

Find us on social media, get farm or food systems related questions answered via email, forward to a friend, or submit your contributions to our newsletter!



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Your copy should address 3 key questions: Who am I writing for? (Audience) Why should they care? (Benefit) What do I want them to do here? (Call-to-Action)

Create a great offer by adding words like "free" "personalized" "complimentary" or "customized." A sense of urgency often helps readers take an action, so think about inserting phrases like "for a limited time only" or "only 7 remaining!"